

### IS THE CLINICAL CONGRESS AN UNMIXED BLESSING?

Next month there will be held in Chicago another of the huge clinical congresses of surgery and undoubtedly the attendance will be large, not an inconsiderable percentage of those attending coming from the smaller cities and towns. Are these "clinical congresses" altogether an unmixed blessing and wholly desirable? Is there not a considerable element of danger? Many very able and skillful surgeons will perform remarkably delicate operations in a manner and with an ease that are totally deceptive; it looks very easy to do some particular thing when one watches an expert with apparently no effort and with a rapidity that still further adds to the illusion, perform his operation. Will not many a man who lacks ability to handle his fingers, to say nothing of the mechanical brain behind them, go home and try to do that same piece of work that looked so easy when he saw it done by the expert at the "congress"? There is a tremendous gap between the ability of the expert and that of the average man and we must remember that in our work it is not merely some material and time wasted in a failure—it is life or health, and these cannot be lightly considered.

### FRIEDMANN AND THE PRESS.

When the notorious faker, Friedmann, landed in New York with his pet turtle and his press agent and the local medical society did not reach out and grab him to its scientific bosom and pronounce him the greatest man in the world, the newspapers of the country, almost without exception, took occasion to say nasty and disagreeable things about the smallness and narrowmindedness of the medical profession and the jealousy of physicians. There was a deluge of such editorial articles; every medical gentleman who kept silent, criticised or merely said "let us wait and see," was written down as jealous of his great and good rival in the realm of scientific medicine, Friedmann. It was pitiful, but so good was the press-agenting that nothing could be done—the newspapers simply ate up the copy about Friedmann and roasted the physicians of the country in general and in particular. After awhile they awoke to the fact that they had been victimized into printing millions of dollars' worth of advertising—for nothing! The bubble burst and the papers then published editorials condemning Friedmann and his turtle and deploring the whole incident of fooling the people. Such expressions as "The fiasco is pitiful," "confidence not warranted," "thousands of pitiful victims" became quite common. But one thing is peculiar; no single paper, so far as we know, took the trouble to call attention to the fact that they should all apologize to the medical profession they had so recently insulted and abused! No paper, so far as we are aware, published one word of regret for its previous condemnation of physicians who were merely cautious.

### PLAGUE IN SQUIRRELS; AND RABIES.

The *Wisconsin Medical Journal* refers to "The quiet, persistent fight which is being made to protect us all from plague" by fighting the infected ground squirrels here in California. Indeed, so quietly does the work go on and so long is it since anything has been heard of it, that even we here in the state have almost come to forget that it is going on. And truly is it said that it is a fight "to protect us all from plague," for the danger is no more to us here in California than it is to those in the country east of us. During the week ending August 16th, 1913, plague infected squirrels were found as follows: Alameda County, 2; Contra Costa County, 12. Whether the effort to eliminate entirely the ground squirrel, to destroy him and his plague utterly and completely, will ever be successful, it is hard to say. The problem is an enormous one, but the possibility of accomplishment by persistent human endeavor is also enormous; and some progress is being made. In the meantime rabies continues with us and increasingly so; during the week ending August 30th there were reported 1 case of feline rabies in San Francisco, 8 cases of canine rabies in Oakland and 1 case in Alameda. It is also learned that in the past couple of months at least a dozen Pasteur treatments were sold by a single dealer. Yet dogs and cats run at large and one almost never sees a dog with a muzzle on! As a people, we certainly do seem to like to take big chances of getting into trouble.

### THE RISE OF THE OSTEOPATH.

During some of the discussions of laws and things while the legislative session was on, it became necessary to compile the results of the working out of the law of 1907 as applied to the Osteopathic applicants for license; it will be remembered that under that law they had to take the same examination that was given to graduates in medicine. The fact that improvement in instruction in osteopathic schools resulted is quite evident from the figures which here follow:

Results of Examinations, December, 1907-December, 1912 (inclusive).

Date.	Passed.	Failed.
December, 1907.....	0	4
August, 1908.....	0	4
December, 1908.....	1	2
April, 1909.....	4	1
August, 1909.....	10	7
December, 1909.....	8	8
April, 1910.....	13	3
August, 1910.....	22	9
December, 1910.....	15	13
April, 1911.....	8	4
August, 1911.....	23	15
December, 1911.....	16	19
April, 1912.....	9	5
August, 1912.....	24	11
December, 1912.....	20	20

Totals.....173 125—298